[18th August 1955

Construction of a building for the Mattanur High School

* 2093 *Q.*—SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received any representation in December 1954 from the High School Committee of Mattanur High School requesting monetary help for constructing a building for the said school; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Applications for building grants from schools under private managements should, in the first instance, be made to the Director of Public Instruction. The representation received from the High School Committee of the Mattanur High School was accordingly transferred to the Director for disposal."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, generally, the grant was given only after completion of the building and in some cases even after one or two years. Due to the fall in agricultural prices and the present financial conditions, the Committee is not in a position to advance or invest money on this work. So, will the Government at least see that an advance is given to the Committee so that the building may be completed within time? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, the general rule is that a grant is admissible only after the buildings are completed. But, in certain cases, it may be possible to give an advance grant. It all depends on the merits of each case. That is why, it has been referred to the Director of Public Instruction. I shall look into the report which he will be making and consider the question."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" The question is that a representation was made in December 1954 and we are in August 1955. May I know how many more months or years will be taken for serious consideration of the matter? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Ordinarily, as pointed out by hon. Member Sri Nambiar, it will take two or three years to disburse any grant. It is taken in the order of priority. There are other applications pending. Only after those cases are disposed of, this case will be taken up for consideration. Mr. Nambiar raised the question of granting some advances. That is a separate matter altogether to be considered. After the receipt of the report, the Government may consider this question."

Government reserved forests in Vriddhachalam taluk

* 2094 *Q.*—SRI M. KATTIMUTHU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state how many Government reserved forests there are in Vriddhachalam taluk?